GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:563
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
PRODUCTION COST OF ERFB (BB) AND ERFB (BT) AMMUNITION
AJAY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual cost of production of indigenously manufactured ERFB(BB) and ERFB(BT) ammunition of South African technology ir the ordnance factories and how it compares with the cost of production of HEER and HE77B ammunition of Bofors design;

(b) the actual production of ERFB(BB) in the ordnance factories in the last three years;

(c) the number of base bleed units of South African technology have so far been imported and the cost thereof;

(d) whether the ERFB(BB) ammunition for which bulk production clearance has been accorded will continue to be produced with imported Base Bleed unit of South African technology; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be produced?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) 155 mm HEER ammunition was last produced in 1998-1999 and supplied to army at a unit cost of Rs. 32,961/-.Similarly, HE77B ammunition was last produced in 2000-2001 and supplied to army at a unit cost of Rs. 17,078/-. The actual unit cost of ERFB (BT) was Rs. 25,211/- during 2001-2002, which was the first year of its supply. The actual costs of production during 2002-2003 are yet to be compiled. The actual unit cost of ERFB (BT) ammunition during 2002-2003 is expected to be lower.The tentative unit cost of ERFB (BB) ammunition during 2002-2003, which is the first year of its supply, is Rs. 41,962/-.

(b) The production of ERFB(BB) ammunition was 24,000 rounds during 2002-2003, which is the first year of its production.

(c) A supply order was placed in June 2002 for import of 42,000 Base Bleed Units at a unit cost of USD 299.Out of these, 31,000 Base Bleed Units have been received and the balance are in transit.

(d) Since the Bulk Production Clearance accorded is for production with imported Base Bleed Units, for the time being the production will be continued with imported Base Bleed Units.

(e) The indigenous Base Bleed unit is under development.Based on the results of the user trials, necessary improvements are being effected and fresh trial samples of indigenous Base Bleed unit will be offered for user trials during 2003-2004. Imports will not be necessary after the production of indigenous Base Bleed unit is established.